

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above-amendments and following comments is courteously solicited.

Independent claim 27, the only independent claim in the case, has been amended in light of the Board of Appeals Decision to specify "longitudinal axis".

Applicants incorporate herein the arguments presented in their Appeal Brief filed December 11, 2003.

In light of the amendments made to independent claim 27 and in view of the remarks of the Board of Appeals in their Decision dated November 30, 2005, it is believed that claim 27 and the claims which depend there from are now in condition for allowance.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

Appln. No. 09/890,715
Prel. Amdt. Dated 01/27/2006

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

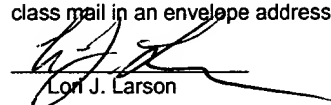
MICHAEL BUTSCH ET AL.

By 

Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,395

Date: January 27, 2006

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on 01/27/2006.


Lori J. Larson